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Attorney Docket No. 01471/LH

MAY 1 9 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Kenichi NEGORO et al

Serial No. : 09/925,675

Filed : August 10, 2001

For : THIN OPTICAL PICKUP UNIT

COMPRISING ONLY GENERAL-

PURPOSE OPTICAL PARTS

Art Unit : 2653

Examiner :

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service with sufficient postage under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dilame Franklin

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97)e)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

SIR:

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of Search Report issued in the counterpart European application;
- (2) Copies of the cited publications; and
- (3) Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. It is requested that initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned to indicate that the publications listed therein have all been considered and made of record.

Said communication is in English, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language publications cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

It is noted that Japanese 10-177733, cited in the European Search Report, was already submitted to the U.S. Patent Office with the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 10, 2001, concurrently with the filing of the original application.

It is further noted that Japanese 8-36779, filed with the Information Disclosure Statement of August 10, 2001, corresponds to USP 5,592,460 which was cited in the enclosed European Search Report. See the listing of family members in the enclosed European Search Report.

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said Communication bears a mailing date of March 3, 2003. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

It is respectfully requested that the attached publications be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Holtz, Es Reg. No. 22,974

Encls.

Dated: May 19, 2003

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